



Rule Revision to be Considered

Planning and Engineering

Chapter 246-290 WAC - Part 2. Planning and Engineering Documents and related sections

October 2004

Systems affected

All Group A water systems

Timelines and requirements

Water System Timelines and Requirements:

All Group A water systems would be subject to revisions to the planning and engineering requirements being considered only after the rules changes are adopted. Department of Health (DOH) currently anticipates rule adoption by December 2005.

State Timelines and Requirements:

At the direction of the State Board of Health (SBOH), DOH is considering revising the planning and engineering regulations in conjunction with water use efficiency regulations currently being developed as required by the Municipal Water Supply – Efficiency Requirements legislation that became effective on September 9, 2003. DOH expects to adopt those regulations by December 2005 as well.

Purpose of rule change

The Municipal Water Law (MWL) amends the SBOH statute concerning planning and engineering requirements, which necessitate changes to the existing WAC rules for consistency. Most of the changes needed are in Part 2 - Planning and Engineering Documents of Chapter 246-290 WAC.

In addition to the changes required by the MWL, DOH would like to take the opportunity while the regulations are open for rule revisions, to make certain other changes to Part 2 – Planning and Engineering Documents. Specifically, to update, clarify, and modify some existing language to make the regulations easier to understand and improve compliance.

Public health benefit

The WAC changes DOH is considering would improve the process for development and submittal of planning and engineering documents. The improvements would help water systems ensure the reliability of their water supplies. Reliable and safe water supplies are essential to maintaining public health.

Key issues of public interest

The rule changes being considered will affect all Group A water systems, but are not expected to be of significant interest to the general public.

Rule development timeline

DOH is planning to request the SBOH delegate rule making authority for the rule changes under consideration to DOH. The Board is currently scheduled to discuss the matter at its November 10, 2004 meeting. DOH will file a CR-101 after the Board decision is made. The CR-101 will contain the projected time line for rule development. At this time, DOH anticipates that the rule-making schedule will coincide with the rule making process for development of the Water Use Efficiency regulations, which DOH plans to adopt by December 2005.

How to get involved

At this time, DOH is in the process of evaluating the existing regulations and the extent of changes it will propose for revision. DOH will invite external parties to participate once we have developed the initial proposal for changes and file the CR 101. DOH intends to solicit preliminary comments on its approach from the Water Supply Advisory Committee and the Washington Water Utility Council.

Send written comments to:

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Comment online (September/October 2005) at:

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For more information

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You can also visit our website at:

[http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our Main Pages/regula.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/regula.htm)